



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, According to the 2003 National Survey on Drug Use  
3 and Health, 12.3 million Americans age 12 and older (5.2  
4 percent of the population) had tried methamphetamine ("meth")  
5 at least once in their lifetime, with the majority of past-year  
6 users being between 18 and 34 years of age; and

7 WHEREAS, By altering the levels of neurotransmitters in the  
8 brain, methamphetamine causes feelings of pleasure and  
9 euphoria; methamphetamine is a neurotoxin and potent  
10 stimulant, which can also cause cerebral edema and hemorrhage,  
11 paranoia, and hallucinations; short-term effects include  
12 insomnia, hyperactivity, decreased appetite, increased  
13 respiration, and tremors; long-term effects can include  
14 psychological addiction, stroke, violent behavior, anxiety,  
15 confusion, paranoia, auditory hallucinations, mood  
16 disturbances, and delusions; methamphetamine use can  
17 eventually cause depletion of monoamines in the brain, which  
18 can have an effect on learning; and

19 WHEREAS, With high doses there may be an increase in both  
20 systolic and diastolic blood pressure due to cardiac  
21 stimulation; in addition, methamphetamine may produce  
22 arrhythmias; other systemic effects include shortness of  
23 breath, hyperthermia, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea; and

24 WHEREAS, Crystal meth is a highly and quickly addictive,  
25 illegal street drug, ranking with crack cocaine in popularity;  
26 it causes a reduction in saliva; "meth heads" tend to drink a  
27 lot of soda, both to relieve the dryness in the mouth and to  
28 add to the "high"; their oral hygiene is generally poor; food  
29 and good nutrition become secondary to a new supply of meth;  
30 meth is said to reduce blood supply to the gingiva, causing  
31 periodontal problems; and

1           WHEREAS, Dental health care professionals should be aware  
2           that methamphetamine use is on the rise in the U.S.; the allure  
3           of this drug is that it is cheap, it is easy to make, and the  
4           "high" lasts much longer than crack cocaine (12 hours versus  
5           one hour for cocaine); as well as being a potent central  
6           nervous system stimulant that can cause permanent brain damage,  
7           methamphetamine's oral health effects are substantial, as  
8           users often crave high-calorie, carbonated, sugary beverages,  
9           or they may grind or clench their teeth; and

10           WHEREAS, The oral health effects of methamphetamine use can  
11           be devastating; reports have described rampant caries that  
12           resembles early childhood caries and is being referred to as  
13           "meth mouth"; a distinctive caries pattern can often be seen on  
14           the buccal smooth surface of the teeth and the interproximal  
15           surfaces of the anterior teeth; therefore, be it

16           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
17           NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
18           we urge the Department of Public Health to develop guidelines,  
19           for distribution to health care professionals, that identify  
20           symptoms of "meth mouth" in patients that include the  
21           following:

22                   (1) unaccounted-for and accelerated tooth decay in  
23                   teenagers and young adults;

24                   (2) distinctive patterns of decay on the buccal smooth  
25                   surface of the teeth and the interproximal surfaces of the  
26                   anterior teeth; and

27                   (3) malnourished appearance in heavy users, because  
28                   methamphetamine acts as an appetite suppressant; and be it  
29                   further

30           RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be delivered to  
31           the Director of Public Health.